

Austria and Servia were moving toward each other, Germany, Russia, France and England were thrown into a high state of apprehension. It was soon evident that Russia was eager to aid Servia. But this meant that Germany would aid Austria; which would bring Italy to help Austria and Germany, and France and England to the assistance of Russia. Russia began mobilizing on the 29th. Germany protested, but was not given a satisfactory answer. The Kaiser declared war on Russia on the 1st, and ordered the mobilizing of the German army. France began mobilizing on the 2d. Italy notified Germany on the first that the Triple Alliance was defensive and not offensive, and that she would therefore remain neutral. The English cabinet was divided on the war issue, with a strong disposition to aid France if attacked by Germany. Before France and Germany formally declared war, their armies were advancing into each other's territory. Germany invaded the neutral territory of the Duchy of Luxemburg on the 2d, which places them at one of the gateways of France; and her troops entered Belgium on the 3d. As Belgium's neutrality is recognized by England, the British war faction is urging this as an excuse for a hostile demonstration. [See current volume, page 730.]

The governments of Europe have seized the means of communication, and are exercising the strictest censorship over all information that is sent out. For this reason very little is known as yet of the movements of the armies and navies. Germany's navy is at Kiel and Wilhelmshaven. England has a large fleet somewhere in the North Sea. France is concentrating her navy in the Mediterranean; while Russia's fleet is in the Baltic. Austria's attacks on Servia are reported as producing slight effect; and now that the Russian armies are approaching her borders she is withdrawing her main forces from the Servian campaign.

Immediately on the declaration of war between Russia and Germany the large steamships in the trans-Atlantic trade were withdrawn, which has left a very large number of American tourists marooned in Europe. Congress has voted \$250,000 to relieve them, and the State Department is doing all it can to aid their return home. By so amending the American navigation laws as to admit foreign ships to American registry Congress has opened the way to restore to the carrying trade much of the shipping that has been withdrawn on account of war.

Russia, Austria, Germany, Servia and France are under martial law, with troops mobilized. England as yet maintains an armed neutrality, with troops mobilizing. In all the countries except France action has been taken on the initiative of the Emperor, King, Kaiser or Czar, without any regard to the will of the people. The British Parliament is in session and the cabinet is in daily consultation with it. The war spirit completely dominates everything throughout Europe. The Russian strike, which had reached serious proportions, has been dropped; and the warring factions in Ireland have forgotten their quarrel for the time being.

Germany on August 3 notified neutral nations that a state of war with France exists. On August 4 the British Foreign Office announced: "Owing to the summary rejection by the German Government of the request made by His Majesty's Government that the neutrality of Belgium be respected, His Majesty's Ambassador at Berlin has received his passports, and His Majesty's Government has declared that a state of war exists between Great Britain and Germany from 11 P. M. August 4." President Wilson on August 4 issued for the United States a proclamation of neutrality.

#### Mexico and the United States.

Mexican affairs are moving so smoothly that President Wilson expresses his confidence in an early settlement between the Federals and the Constitutionals. General Carranza insists upon his original terms of unconditional surrender. This demand is made in order to avoid the recognition of Huerta or Carbajal authority as a legal government, and to have a free hand in resuming the reins laid down by President Madero. [See current volume, page 733.]

Some fighting at distant points has taken place in spite of the reported armistice. Mazatlan, one of the last cities on the Pacific Coast to surrender, was evacuated by the Federal authorities on the 1st. General Tellez, who was in command, has been ordered to take his troops to Salina Cruz, the southern terminus of the Tehuantepec railway. General Carranza is reported to have ordered an advance of the Constitutionalist soldiers on Mexico City. Generals Obregon and Gonzales effected a junction of their forces, numbering 60,000 men, at Irapuato, 180 miles from the Capital. They are moving toward Pachuca, where they will join the

forces of General Flores. The Carbajal delegates are reported at General Carranza's headquarters.



#### Changes in Geo. A. Fowlds' Route.

Some changes have been made in the itinerary of Honorable George A. Fowlds of New Zealand, who is visiting this country and will address a number of meetings. He will be in Montreal on August 10; Quebec, August 11; Ottawa, August 12 and 13; Toronto, August 14; Niagara Falls, Rochester and Wyoming, N. Y., on August 15 and 16; Chicago, August 17 and 18; Milwaukee, August 19 and 20; Arco, Minnesota, August 21, 22 and 23; Minneapolis, August 24; Winnipeg, August 25; Shellmouth, August 26; Calgary, August 27; Edmonton, August 28 and 29; Vancouver, August 31, September 1 and 2. Thence to New Zealand. [See current volume, page 709.]



#### Governor Sulzer for Home Rule.

Former Governor of New York William Sulzer, now a candidate for re-election, gave assurances on July 28 to a committee of Singletaxers and to the Lower Rent Society that he is heartily in favor of Home Rule in Taxation and of the untaxing of industry. He gave this committee a signed statement to the effect and urged that other gubernatorial candidates be challenged to debate with him. [See current volume, page 709.]



#### Protest Against Pending Water Power Bill.

The National Conservation Association on July 26 through its president, Gifford Pinchot, issued a public statement concerning the Adamson water power bill now pending in Congress. Mr. Pinchot said in part:

Every friend of Conservation will receive with keen disappointment the recent announcements from the White House that the Administration endorses the Adamson Dam Bill in its amended form. This is an unfortunate and needless surrender to the power interests on the threshold of victory for the people. . . . In a statement on June 1 I called attention to the fact that the Adamson bill was much more favorable to the water power interests than to the public interest. It was precisely the kind of bill the power people wanted. It did not protect the public, and therefore was indefensible. This was fully proved when the bill came before the House for consideration during the first week in July. Its most important provisions are in conflict with the present Dam Act and the policies now in force in the Departments of Agriculture and of the Interior. The recent amendments to the bill, approved at the White House conferences, unbelievable as it may seem, fail to bring the bill into line with these policies. The bill as it stands is a thoroughly bad bill.

It does not require the power companies to pay to the public for the valuable privileges they receive.

After the seven years' fight to make the power

interests adequately compensate the Government for special privileges, they are now invited to help themselves to what they may choose on our navigable streams. . . . It does not protect consumers within the States from extortion in case the State Governments fail to act.

It makes substantially impossible the taking back of the public rights granted even when the ostensible fifty-year period of the grant has expired.

It gives the water power people the right to saddle the Government with the unearned increment in land values if it ever should succeed in resuming its rights.

It would apparently require the Government to take over the whole electric lighting plant of a city in order to get possession again of the water power owned by the people, if that power were the source from which the lighting plant was supplied.

This bill prevents the amendment or repeal of a grant or franchise except when Congress "determines that the conditions of consent have been violated." The Conservationists have always insisted that the grant should be made for a definite period, and that fifty years was a reasonable period. The Adamson bill provides that the grant shall be for "fifty years from and after the date of the completion of the dam described in the original approval, and after the expiration of said fifty years such rights shall continue until compensation has been made to said grantee for the fair value of its property." This is substantially an indeterminate grant, and clearly not a grant for a fifty year period, for the grantee, at the end of the grant, can by litigation of the question of "fair value" not only extend the grant to an indefinite period but also tie the hands of Congress.

The Adamson bill in its present form is full of jokers, and is lacking in important safeguards to protect the public interest. . . . Its passage would be a sweeping victory for the water power monopolists. [See current volume, page 9.]



#### Nebraska Politics.

State conventions of the Democratic, Progressive and Republican parties were held in Nebraska on July 28. The Democratic convention endorsed the record of Senator Hitchcock and of the Democratic congressmen. On state matters the platform endorses the pending constitutional amendments giving the legislature greater latitude in selecting subjects for taxation, and allowing five-sixths of a jury to render a verdict in civil cases and in criminal cases involving less than felonies. The Progressive convention declared for home rule in taxation for cities and public ownership of public utilities. It also endorses the pending constitutional amendments. It further declared for presidential primaries, majority votes on all measures submitted under the Initiative and Referendum, Equal Suffrage, the short ballot, the recall of all elective officers and of judicial decisions, preferential voting, simplification of the direct primary, a progressive inheritance tax and a graduated state income tax "discriminating sharply